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Corps plans to finalize Lower Snake River drawdown study this fall

Walla Walla, Wash. -- Officials from the Walla Walla District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers intend to present a final Lower Snake River Juvenile Salmon Migration Feasibility Report/Environmental Impact Statement to the region this fall, according to the study program manager.

"We released a draft feasibility report and environmental impact statement in December 1999 that focused on ways to modify the four lower Snake River dams to improve migration conditions for juvenile salmon and steelhead listed under the Endangered Species Act. The Corps will be conducting an internal technical, legal and policy review of the final feasibility report/environmental impact statement this summer," said Greg Graham, study program manager.

Public were held throughout the region in February and March 2000. More than 8,700 people attended those meetings. The Corps received 230,000 comment documents on the study from the public.

The study team recently updated the web site for the study. The site presents an overview of some of the technical, economic, and environmental information developed for the study. It represents more than five years of work by the technical staff and engineers of the District, and other Pacific Northwest scientists and engineers. Questions and answers have been added to the site that include information developed for the final report.

"The study team feels it is important to get information out as it develops and this web site will be continuously updated," said Graham, study program manager. "However, it is important to note that the information provided is tentative and subject to change, as a result of the review process."

The public may make comments on the final report when the Corps releases it this fall. A record of decision is expected in 2002.

Bonneville Power Administration, the Bureau of Reclamation, and the Environmental Protection Agency have been cooperating agencies in developing the report. Other federal agencies, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service, have provided essential input. There has also been participation by tribes and many regional scientists and stakeholders.

For more information on the Corps' Lower Snake River FR/EIS visit

<http://www.nww.usace.army.mil/lsr>.

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